

TOWN OF TRURO
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING OF TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2006

The Truro Board of Selectmen met for their weekly session on Tuesday, February 7, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. at the Truro Town Hall, 24 Town Hall Road, Truro. In attendance were: Chairman Alfred Gaechter, Vice-Chairman Gary Palmer, Clerk Paul J. Asher-Best, Christopher R. Lucy, Town Administrator Pamela Nolan, Assistant Town Administrator John J. Sanguinet, Administrative Secretary Julie DuPree, Martha Nagy, Guy Strauss, Erin Sullivan-Silva, Curtis Hartman, Chuck Steinman, Tom Wingard, Harry Eastman, Helen McNeil-Ashton, Claire Perry, Mike Roderick, Betty Groom, Desiree Duda, Ethan Poulin, John Thomas, Breon Dunigan-Bailey, Brenda Boleyn, Tim Silva, Dennis Klass, Jon Arterton, Doreen Legget of the CC Voice and Pru Sowers of the Banner. Lloyd F. Rose was absent.

Mr. Gaechter convened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes: Mr. Palmer moved to approve the minutes of the regular and Executive Sessions of January 24, 2006, with the regular session minutes corrected, and to hold the Executive Session minutes in abeyance. Mr. Asher-Best seconded it. **Vote: 4-0, unanimous.**

Public Comment: Susan Kadar presented a graph she created showing the rapid rise in property valuations, taxes assessed and declining school enrollment. She questioned if this was sustainable. Mr. Gaechter told her he would forward the graph to the Truro Affordability Task Force.

Claire Perry asked if there was going to be an article on the ATM Warrant regarding town access over the road into town owned properties at North Union Field. Mr. Gaechter said that had not been decided yet. Ms. Perry asked if the town would ask for an easement or right of interest. Mr. Sanguinet said they would ask for an easement; he suggested that the BOS hold another public hearing on the matter. Mr. Gaechter directed staff to advertise and post a public hearing for the Tuesday before the Warrant closes.

Public Hearing: Soil removal permit: Mr. Gaechter explained that they found out that there is no need for this hearing. According to the new bylaws soil removal permits will be issued by the Building Inspector. The BOS can impose conditions if they choose. **Mr. Gaechter moved to open the hearing. Mr. Asher-Best seconded it. Vote: 4-0, unanimous. Mr. Gaechter moved to close the hearing. Mr. Asher-Best seconded it. Vote: 4-0, unanimous.** Mr. Wingard outlined the new procedure under the revised General Bylaws, which gives the BOS the option to authorize conditions. He will inform the Town Administrator whenever an application is received. Mr. Gaechter noted that the agreement between the BOS and Mr. Poulin should be Attachment 1 to the soil removal permit issued to Mr. Poulin. He noted that there is no fee at the present time, and the BOS will look at a fee for the permit. Mr. Wingard said that if there is a violation of the permit a public hearing must be held.

Community Preservation Articles: Mr. Hartman asked the BOS to endorse the five funding articles for the ATM Warrant, and the one procedural article. He explained that there was a total of \$510k for proposals, and after \$123k went towards Open Space Debt, and \$7,500. was put toward administrative coverage, \$380k was available. The Historical Society and the Historical

Commission requested monies to restore Cobb Library. The Recreation Commission requested funds to study public recreation use possibilities at the old burn dump site and Snow's Field. The Housing Authority has three articles; the first to fund administrative support, the second to pay for a needs assessment and the third to complete payment for the movement of the house to Snows Road, pay association fees and make the house habitable. The CPA last article would re-write the CPA bylaw to allow them ask any town meeting to appropriate money--not just an annual town meeting. Mr. Hartman asked the BOS to find ways to spread the word about the available CPA funds.

After each group had given the BOS a presentation on their project, Mr. Gaechter told them that it appeared that they had the support of the BOS for these projects, but the BOS will vote their recommendations after the Warrant is written.

Interview: Cable Advisory Committee: Mr. Klass has applied to fill a vacancy on the CAC. **Mr. Asher-Best moved to appoint Dennis Klass to the Cable Advisory Committee. Mr. Palmer seconded it. Vote: 4-0, unanimous.**

Harbor Master selection: Ms. Nolan gave the Board an overview of the process. She has chosen Anthony Joseph. The deciding factor was his high enthusiasm for the job, and he said he would be here for the long term. Mr. Silva said that out of the final four, you could have picked anyone; they were all good candidates. He supports her decision and the hiring process couldn't have been better. **Mr. Gaechter moved that the BOS supports the Town Administrator's choice and has no objection to the hiring of Anthony Joseph as proposed by the Town Administrator. Mr. Palmer seconded it. Vote: 4-0, unanimous.**

Condo Conversion: Mary's Cozy Cottages: Mr. Lucy stepped down. **Mr. Gaechter moved to approve the application. Mr. Palmer seconded it. Vote: 4-0, unanimous. Mr. Gaechter moved to approve the Declaration of Covenant for Mary's Cozy Cottages. Mr. Palmer seconded it. Vote: 2-1, with Mr. Asher-Best opposed because of the seasonality. When he realized that the motion failed, he changed his vote to aye so that he would not hold up Mr. Arterton. The motion carried unanimously, 3-0.**

Historical Commission/Review Board: The Board met with the two multi-member bodies to discuss the organization of the Review Board and the need to modify procedures. Ms. Nolan explained how and when the 3-member Board became a 5-member Board. Mr. Steinman said that originally the two had overlapping membership. Ms. McNeil-Ashton said that Truro was one of the only Cape towns that divided the two. She suggested that as a temporary measure until the bylaw could be revised, that they recreate the overlapping membership. She and Mr. Steinman would be willing to serve on the Review Board as Commission members. Mr. Thomas also thought it would work better as one committee. He noted that at this time there is nothing in either of their regulations that would save a property such as the Kane house. Mr. Steinman said that is what a local historical district would do. They discussed the roles that both groups play and all agreed that changes need to be made; procedural problems include the time line, timely notification and who works with the owner to find options to save an historic

property. Mr. Asher-Best asked if they eliminate the Review Board, would the Commission be able to do this. Mr. Thomas said that the Commission would not have any more authority than the Review Board has. It was agreed that as a first step, they needed to get five people on the Review Board, and two of them would be from the Historical Commission. **Mr. Gaechter moved to have Helen McNeil-Ashton and Chuck Steinman as members of the Historical Commission serve on the Historical Review Board as interim members until Annual Town Meeting 2007, and that both Boards work together to draft a revised bylaw that integrates the two committees into one and to create procedures. Mr. Asher-Best seconded it.** Mr. Gaechter said that if the third member of the Review Board resigns, the BOS will advertise for a new member. **Vote: 3-1, with Mr. Palmer opposed.**

Wedding Request: The Board received a request from Christine Markowski to hold a wedding at Corn Hill Beach on Saturday, July 29th at 7:00 p.m., and to have a champagne toast, and to use the Town Hall parking lot for reception parking. Ms. Nolan reported that the Beach Supervisor has no objection to the use of the beach because of the hour of the day, and Chief Thomas said that a parking detail was not needed at the beach, but would be needed at the Town Hall parking lot. The General Bylaws do not allow alcohol on town property. **Mr. Gaechter moved to send a letter to the applicant giving approval of the wedding at Corn Hill Beach, denial of the champagne toast, and that a parking detail at her cost is required to use the Town Hall parking lot. Mr. Asher-Best seconded it. Vote: 4-0, unanimous.**

Surplus Property: Mr. Sanguinet explained that since the DPW has purchased a new van, they no longer need to use the 1992 Ford Explorer. His recommended minimum bid of \$1,500.00 is below trade-in value. **Mr. Palmer moved to declare the 1992 Ford Explorer XLT 4x4 as surplus property, with a minimum bid requirement of \$1,500. Mr. Gaechter seconded it. Vote: 4-0, unanimous.**

Lottery Distribution: The Board received a request from the Town of Kingston seeking support to petition the legislators to remove the current cap on Lottery distribution to cities and towns. Mr. Gaechter said he would like to draft a letter, but he would like it to include details of the history and impact to Truro. **He moved to draft such a letter. Mr. Lucy seconded it. Vote: 4-0, unanimous.** He directed Ms. Nolan to draft the letter with the assistance of the legislative aide for the history.

Funding for a Consulting Firm: Mr. Asher-Best stepped down. Ms. Nolan told the Board that she is bringing in a firm to evaluate our financial offices. She requested permission to pay for it out of the BOS consulting line item. There is \$24k in that line so there is enough to pay for this. **Mr. Gaechter moved to authorize the Town Administrator to use the funds necessary to do the analysis proposed. Mr. Lucy seconded it.** Mr. Palmer said he was not clear as to why she needed to do this. Ms. Nolan explained that she could not uncover the reason for the lateness of the tax bills. Mr. Palmer said he thought reasons had been given previously. Ms. Nolan said she feels the Assessor's office fell behind before those things, and there was no reason for our tax bill not to go out until January. This firm will study not just the Assessor's office, but other financial offices--each one that deals with the recap sheet; we have to bring in professionals.

Mr. Gaechter said that year after year this happens, and it happened under the previous Town Administrator as well. Ms. Nolan said that across the state Truro is known for filing last. This is unacceptable; we only have 3,200 parcels. **Vote: 3-0, unanimous.**

Appraisal Service for Moses Way/North Union Field Road layouts: Mr. Sanguinet requested that the BOS approve a contract with Anne Ekstrom of Appraisal Services of CC & the Islands, LLC to do an easement appraisal. **Mr. Palmer moved to approve the agreement with Appraisal Services of CC & the Islands and authorize the Chair to sign. Mr. Asher-Best seconded it. Vote: 4-0, unanimous.**

Goals/Objectives: Mr. Asher-Best incorporated Mr. Gaechter's suggestions into the review of the FY2006 Goals and Objectives. **Mr. Asher-Best moved to adopt the mid-year progress report and that it be published on the town website. Mr. Lucy seconded it. Vote: 5-0, unanimous.**

CCJTP: Mr. Sanguinet requested that the BOS appoint him to be the representative to the Cape Cod Joint Transportation Committee, and that Paul Morris be appointed as the alternate. **Mr. Gaechter moved to appoint Mr. Sanguinet as the representative and Mr. Morris as the alternate, and to so inform the Cape Cod Commission. Mr. Asher-Best seconded it. Vote: 4-0, unanimous.**

Possible Transportation Projects: Mr. Sanguinet outlined two possible RTP projects. One is the widening and painting of Rte. 6A, with the addition of a bike path on one side, and the other one is the sidewalk from TCS to the Police Station. **Mr. Gaechter moved to authorize Mr. Sanguinet to submit a project to MA Highway under the TIP program for the widening of Rte. 6A from the Provincetown line to Highland Road, and the addition of a bike path. Mr. Lucy seconded it. Vote: 4-0, unanimous.** Mr. Gaechter said he questions the need for the sidewalk and was not sure they would want to submit it at this time. Ms. Nolan said she spoke to the TCS Principal about this and suggested that the police could stop traffic while the children walked to the police station. Mr. Davis said that is what they do now. Ms. Nolan noted that under either plan, the kids have to cross the street. The school wants the sidewalk for their emergency plan. Mr. Sanguinet said he will be meeting with school personnel and the Health Agent to discuss emergency preparedness, and they can talk about the sidewalk at that meeting. Mr. Asher-Best will attend the meeting as well. The Board will wait for feedback before making their decision on that project.

Annual Report to the ABCC: Ms. DuPree told the Board she had completed the required annual report listing the number of alcoholic beverage licenses issued, the categories, the fee schedule and the amount collected. She requested that the BOS approve the annual report. **Mr. Asher-Best moved to approve the annual report to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission. Mr. Palmer seconded it. Vote: 4-0, unanimous.**

Town Administrator's Report: (action items)

- Informed the Board of correspondence received, meeting notices. No action was

required.

Mr. Sanguinet reported that the Deputy Assessor came to him last week when the Town Administrator was out and requested the BOS approve an agreement with Wendy A. Little to do data collecting at a cost of \$27.00 per parcel. After discussion, **Mr. Asher-Best moved to approve the agreement with Ms. Little and to authorize the Chair to sign it. Mr. Lucy seconded it. Vote: 4-0, unanimous.**

Selectmen/Liaison Reports: (action items)

Lucy: -Asked if there was a date for the evaluation of the Police Chief. Mr. Gaechter said he had not started working on the new evaluation form yet, but would do so.

- Asked if a new date had been set for the joint meeting with Provincetown that had been cancelled. Ms. Nolan told him that she had proposed a meeting date of Wednesday, February 22nd at 5:30 p.m. here in Truro, but has not heard back yet.

Asher-Best: -Reminded the BOS that they need to save room on the Warrant for the Senior work-off. Ms. Nolan reported that the Town Accountant thought they should keep 5K and put additional money in the budget for those who may apply and don't fit. The Board liked that idea.

Gaechter: -Reported that the LCPC requested that the BOS put together a letter to the others with LCPC responsibilities. He will draft a letter for review.

Next week's agenda: Pros and cons of merit pay, Bike-a-thon request, Annual Town Report decisions, update on bells and Duarte property.

At 8:50 p.m. Mr. Gaechter moved to convene in Executive Session under the provisions of MGL Chapter 39, Section 23B to consider contract negotiations and to not reconvene in Open Session. Roll Call Vote: Asher-Best, aye; Palmer, aye; Gaechter, aye; Lucy, aye. 4-0, unanimous.

Alfred Gaechter, Chairman

Gary Palmer, Vice-Chairman

Paul Asher-Best, Clerk

Christopher R. Lucy
Board of Selectmen
Town of Truro